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Identical letters dated 22 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the Co-Chair's summary of the Conference on Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups for the Stabilization of Afghanistan: Coordination with Police Reform, held in Tokyo on 21 June 2007 (see annex). The meeting was organized under the co-chairmanship of Japan, Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be published as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 16, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kenzo **Oshima**
Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 22 June 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Co-Chair's summary

Conference on Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups for the Stabilization of Afghanistan: Coordination with Police Reform

21 June 2007

1. The Conference on Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups for the Stabilization of Afghanistan: Coordination with the Police Reform was held on 21 June 2007 in Tokyo, under the co-chairmanship of Japan, Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

2. The Conference was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Taro Aso, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan. The opening statement was made by H.E. Mr. Mohammad K. Khalili, Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, followed by H.E. Mr. Tom Koenigs, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan. Representatives from 13 States and 6 international organizations attended the Conference.

3. The participants in the Conference reaffirmed their strongest commitment to the stability and reconstruction of Afghanistan, and stressed their support for Afghanistan's nation-building efforts under its ownership.

4. The participants examined the current situation of disbandment and appreciated the progress achieved to date in accordance with President Karzai's firm commitment demonstrated at the Second Tokyo Conference on Consolidation of Peace in Afghanistan held on 5 July 2006. In this regard, they welcomed the launch of a new action plan of disbandment of illegal armed groups and the process of establishing a disbandment unit inside the Ministry of the Interior, whose responsibilities include disbandment-related activities, weapons registration and the regulation of security companies. The participants agreed on the necessity to secure personnel, infrastructure, equipment and a budget that would allow the disbandment division to function in a sustainable and independent manner, and reaffirmed that the international community would support such efforts. They commended Afghanistan's national ownership in the disbandment programme as reflected in those developments.

Coordination between disbandment of illegal armed groups, police reform and other security sector reforms

5. The participants discussed the challenges facing the disbandment operations, such as security, narcotics, poverty, unemployment and, above all, the weak institutional capacity of law enforcement and security institutions. They reaffirmed the importance of a comprehensive approach to implementation and agreed to closely coordinate disbandment, police reform and other security sector reform activities. They encouraged the Government of Afghanistan to:

- Focus attention on coordination between disbandment and the police reform, while putting emphasis on more visible effective efforts in such areas as public information, the training of policemen and the strengthening of provincial and district administration

- Carefully formulate an effective enforcement plan among the national and international agencies, with the Afghan National Police playing a leading role in producing and implementing such a plan, to be strongly supported by NATO-ISAF

- Quickly deploy additional police forces in areas where disbandment has been enforced, so as to consolidate the gains achieved through the programme and allow development activities to commence

- Take strong measures against Government officials engaged in drug trafficking and other criminal activities through the relevant mechanisms, such as the Advisory Panel on Senior Appointments and the Ministry of the Interior selection boards

- De-register political parties and disqualify parliamentarians found to maintain armed wings or groups

- Formulate a better mechanism of information-sharing among the security agencies and make efforts to achieve better coordination and collaboration with counter-narcotics.

6. The participants called upon neighbouring countries to contribute to preventing smuggling of weapons into Afghanistan and reaffirmed the necessity of establishing an appropriate strategy in this regard in an urgent manner.

7. The participants appreciated the initiatives taken by the United States of America, the European Union, Canada and Norway in deploying police mentors and expressed the need for additional mentors, particularly at the provincial and district levels.

8. The participants agreed upon the need for consistent support for disbandment efforts from NATO-ISAF and its contributing countries.

9. The participants furthermore recommended that attention be paid to the linkages between disbandment and rule of law issues during the Rome conference, to be held on 3 July 2007.

Reintegration and the role of the community

10. The participants pointed out the importance of a smooth transition from disbandment to development, welcomed the launch of disbandment projects in Kapisa, and encouraged the Government of Afghanistan to strive for the following:

- Fully scrutinizing the socio-economic factors before, during and after disbandment and making the utmost effort to integrate those who surrender their weapons and accept the authority of Government of Afghanistan into civilian life

- Enhancing the visibility of the Afghan Government's efforts and seriousness in disbandment through establishing all district development assemblies, expeditiously, and implementing development projects smoothly in the areas

on which the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission has put great emphasis

- Establishing a mechanism to commend and encourage governors and/or local government officials in their endeavours to implement disbandment
- Strengthening the existing coordination between disbandment and the national reconciliation programme (programme Takhim-e Solh) for weapons collection, reintegration and other relevant efforts
- Ensuring that senior government officials support the programme through visits to the provinces and districts
- Ensuring that community needs are met through decentralized decision-making during the identification of disbandment projects through the district development assemblies
- Ensuring transparency in the implementation of the programme and engaging civil society in public education, reintegration and monitoring.

11. The participants reaffirmed the necessity of empowering the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission and the disbandment provincial committees. The participants recommended investing the necessary resources in and extending logistical support through existing programmes, such as the Afghanistan stability programme and the New Beginnings Programme. The participants further welcomed the establishment of the outreach fund for provincial governors and called upon donors to accelerate the process.

Partnership of the Afghanistan Government and the international community

12. The representatives of the international community reaffirmed their support for disbandment, including the transition to full Afghan ownership.

13. The participants agreed upon the need to share information so as to ensure accurate targeting of illegal armed groups and prioritization of those actively involved in drug trafficking and other criminal activities.

14. The participants expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the Conference and welcomed its continued support for the Afghan-led disbandment process.